THE MEMORIAL

OF

WASHINGTON ALLON BARTLETT,

LATE A LIEUTENANT IN THE NAVY,

SETTING FORTH THE SERVICES HE HAS PERFORMED IN THE NAVY AS AN EFFICIENT OFFICER, AND ASKING TO BE RESTORED TO HIS ORIGINAL POSITION ON

THE NAVY LIST.

WITH

AN APPENDIX

OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

WASHINGTON:
G. S. GIDEON, PRINTER.
1856.

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MEMORIAL.

To the Hon. The Senate and House of Representatives
Of the United States in Congress assembled:

The petition of Washington Allon Bartlett, a citizen of the State of Maine, and resident in the State of New York, late a lieutenant in the Navy of the United States, respectfully representing:

That, on the 22d of January, in the year 1833, your memorialist was appointed a midshipman in the Navy, having had some previous nautical training at sea; and was ordered, in April of that year, to commence his service at sea, by joining the Vincennes sloop-of-war for a cruise on the Pacific Ocean, which cruise was extended to a period of four years and twelve days, your memorialist returning in the frigate Brandywine—Commodore Wadsworth's flag-ship—commanded by Capt. D. Deacon, on the 12th May, 1837.

That from that period till July, 1839, your memorialist was variously employed "afloat and ashore;" and in preparing for examination to the grade of passed-midshipman, which examination was successfully passed by your memorialist, July the 8th, 1839, your memorialist obtaining a high rank in his class, being warranted No. 7 in a class of thirty-two; and that then your memorialist was again ordered to sea for the "survey of southern harbors," and at the instance of the Navy Department your memorialist was continued upon surveying duty, mostly at sea, either on surveys specially ordered by acts of Congress, or in the department of the "Coast Survey," until November, A. D. 1844, when your memorialist was commissioned a lieutenant in the Navy, and ordered to the sloop-of-war "Portsmouth," Commander John B. Montgomery, for another cruise on the Pacific Ocean, which cruise your memorialist successfully performed, participating in all the incidents of the war in Mexico in which the Pacific squadron took part, and which obtained for the United States the Territory of Cali-

fornia, and the subjugation of the western coast of Mexico; which cruise of three years and six months was ended on the 15th day of May, A. D. 1848, or the close of the war.

Your memorialist further represents, that in November of the same year he was selected to command the U. S. schooner "Ewing" for an expedition into the Pacific; and again your memorialist passed Cape Horn, and reported his command off San Francisco, ready to commence the survey of the western coast of the United States, then commanding (August, 1849) the attention of the whole commercial world; and that Lieutenant Commanding William P. McArthur, assistant in the Coast Survey, having charge of the hydrography of the western coast, (arriving out in September,) being then ready to proceed with the work, your memorialist seconded with all possible zeal the ardent efforts of the commandant of the expedition, so that before the close of 1850 (being well sustained by the officers engaged on the work) your memorialist was enabled to return and report to the distinguished chief of the Coast Survey, that notwithstanding all the difficulties, almost insurmountable, under which the expedition had suffered from the excessive temptations to desert, a partial mutiny of the crew, (and other causes which paralyzed every branch of the public service in that region,) and the exploration of a coast but little known, with the survey of the Columbia river, (up to that period known only to mariners by its difficulties and disasters, where two United States vessels of war had been totally lost;) and that a good practicable, serviceable, and reliable chart of the entire coast of Oregon and California, from the Columbia river to Monterey, including the entrance to San Francisco, with a detailed survey of the mouth of the Columbia from sea to a point fifteen miles within the bar, had been made; which, on being presented to the superintendent, A. D. Bache, L. L. D., was approved, and published to the world, previous to the end of the year, as the joint production of the late lamented Lieut. Com'g Wm. P. McArthur and your memorialist.

And your memorialist avers, that for the successful accomplishment of that work, so laborious and dangerous in its execution—which so fully, completely, and safely opened the navigation of the Columbia river, producing results so incalculable in value to that heretofore sealed territory, and our general commerce—obtained for your memorialist, as the associate of McArthur, (who died from exposure on the work before he could see the published results of our labors,) high

commendations from the superintendent of the Coast Survey, Professor A. D. Bache, L. L. D., from the Navy Department, from the committees of Congress, (which passed increased appropriations for the continuance of the survey of the western coast,) from the citizens of Oregon and California, and the commercial interests of the country.

Your memorialist avers, that he only retired from the command of the work now tendered to him—consequent upon McArthur's decease, because your memorialist had been serving on the Pacific for six consecutive years—in all ten years and a half in that sea—and his family now needed his personal attention.

In this important work, strictly professional and creditable to the Navy, your memorialist had at all times used his utmost zeal and abilities to sustain the declining health of the chief of the expedition, and prosecute the work to a successful result; that result is before the world; its value has been everywhere admitted. And your memorialist further says, that being detached from the Coast Survey, July, 1852, your memorialist, with the full concurrence of the honorable the Secretary of the Navy, was employed by the Treasury Department to proceed to Europe as "special agent" under its orders, with large powers to contract for and superintend the construction of the *Fresnel Lens lights*, ordered by Congress to be illuminated on the western coast of the United States; and that having completed that duty, and closed his disbursement accounts on the books of the Treasury, to the entire satisfaction of the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, in February, 1855, your memorialist was again ordered to sea as a lieutenant, and served cheerfully and faithfully as lieutenant, and as 1st lieutenant, and executive officer of the flag-ship of the African squadron, up to the 28th day of October last, when your memorialist received (being then on board of said flag-ship at the Cape de Verde islands,) a copy of the following communication, which the honorable the Secretary had addressed to the wife of your memorialist:

"Navy Department, *Sept. 20th*, 1855.

"Madam: Your letter of the 18th instant has been received. The board of naval officers, recently convened in Washington in accordance with the law, merely reported the names and ranks of officers who, in their judgment, came within the provisions of the recent act of Congress, but not the facts or the grounds upon which their action was based. No charges were preferred against any officer. You will per-

ceive, therefore, that I am unable to comply with your request to know what the charges were against Lieut. Bartlett.

"I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

"J. C. DOBBIN.

"Mrs. WASHINGTON BARTLETT, *New York.*"

Thus ended the service of your memorialist. The whole period of service of your memorialist in the Navy was *twenty-two years and nine months*, of which *thirteen years* and *nine months* have been passed in *actual sea service*, seven years on "other duty," and only two years "unemployed;" but this time rated as "unemployed" was not passed in idleness, but in the prosecution of the study of the Spanish and French languages, the political history, laws, and decisions of the United States, and commercial, admiralty, and international law, the better to prepare your memorialist for the intelligent performance of those duties which subsequent years and higher rank should impose upon him.

And your memorialist further says, that while the conquest and pacification of California was in progress, your memorialist being then a lieutenant of the "Portsmouth," and having assisted in the taking possession of the northern department of California, was called by Commander Montgomery, commandant of the northern department, *by the election of the people*, (at the first election held under our flag in the Territory,) and by the approval and full concurrence of Commodore the Hon. Robert F. Stockton, governor and commander-in-chief of the Territory, to the performance of functions of civil office and administration, of high trust and responsibility, to wit: To the office of the chief magistracy of the town and district of San Francisco, (September, 1846,) and judge of first instance; and by appointment to the office of "collector" and superintendent of the port, and judge in admiralty in all maritime cases occurring in the northern department. And your memorialist confidently avers, that he acquitted himself in these various offices to the entire satisfaction of our Government and the community, whether native or foreign, who flocked to that port, and ever received, and continues to receive, high praise for this service from the various chiefs who commanded the department, and the governor general, who were best informed of the severity and value of the labors of your memorialist; and your memorialist only surrendered the charge of these varied duties when the administration of the govern-

ment of the Territory fell into the hands of the late General Kearny, and the naval forces proceeded to the occupation of Lower California, Sonora, and the coast of Mexico proper.

And your memorialist also avers, that it was in grateful remembrance of these well-performed services, in the early history of our occupation of that city and Territory, since so famous as the great commercial wonder of our country, and the salutary and intelligent basis upon which the various archives were established, that in 1850 your memorialist was invited by the "bar" of San Francisco, to present himself for examination as a counsellor of the supreme court of the State, and was duly qualified and commissioned as such; and your memorialist avers that this mark of consideration, esteem, and reward for civil service—*yet strictly a necessity of naval conquest*—was a compliment paid to his naval commission.

And your memorialist declares, that during his whole period of service he has done his whole duty, and ever been "*efficient*" both "ashore and afloat;" and that, at no period of that service has any charge or complaint ever been brought against him by any *commander*, *captain*, or *commander-in-chief*, or the *Navy Department;* that your memorialist has never been made the subject of a naval court-martial or court of inquiry; ever arrested, suspended, or reprimanded by any superior officer, since he has had the honor to hold an appointment or commission in the Navy.

And your memorialist knows, that he has ever had, and still has, the respect, confidence and esteem, as an officer and gentleman, of every *commander*, *captain*, or *commander-in-chief* under whom he has had the honor to serve in any capacity; the Secretaries of the Navy; the superintendent of the Coast Survey; ex-Governor General Joseph Lane, who was governor of Oregon while your memorialist served on the coast of that Territory, and the Hon. ex-Senator Stockton, late commodore and governor of California, than whom the army or navy never had more gallant and accomplished chieftains.

And your memorialist refers to the annexed documents, (A,) Appendix, to show in what manner your memorialist was held and esteemed as an *efficient* officer, by all his superior and junior officers, and the petty officers and crew of the present flag-ship of the African squadron, where your memorialist held the responsible and delicate post of 1st lieutenant and executive officer of a cruising frigate, down to the 28th October

last, and where your memorialist would still be on "*sea service*," but for the action of the late "board."

But your memorialist has to state, that all this has availed him nothing to sustain him in his commission as an "efficient" officer of the Navy; for by the act of Congress of the 28th February, A. D. 1855, entitled An act to promote the efficiency of the Navy, a board of officers was created, which "board," acted upon by some influence or allegations unknown to your memorialist and to the Navy Department—(see the letter of the 20th September, before quoted)—has recommended to the President of the United States that the name of your memorialist should be "stricken from the rolls," and in accordance with such recommendation or opinion, unaccompanied by charges, facts, or proofs of any kind to direct the judgment of the Executive, the name of your memorialist has been stricken from the rolls; and the information, so astonishing to your memorialist, reached him when in the full performance of his duties on the coast of Africa. Your memorialist, with the "regrets," and bearing with him the highest commendations of his commanders, brother officers, and crew, was permitted to return to the United States.

Your memorialist will not detain the Congress of the United States with any argument or proof of the baneful effects of this law upon the justice and sympathies of the country for its Navy, and its still more baneful results upon the chivalry and *esprit du corps* of a service which has never had its escutcheon tarnished before the enemies of the country, but has now received a staggering blow from the mistaken zeal of its friends, urged on by a few within its own bosom, till an inquisitorial court has been created, and acted in a manner which shocks every sentiment of justice inherent in a free people.

It is sufficient for your memorialist to say, that he believes, (and in this opinion is sustained by the best legal talent of the country,) that the law itself is clearly within the description of "acts" so ably described by our great commentators, Marshall, Story, and Kent, in the great text-books of the law as ex post facto, and therefore unconstitutional; but if not unconstitutional, and therefore justly upon the statute as a measure of naval reform and progress, the more than extraordinary manner in which it has been executed, the Department instructing the board that its action was only "advisory," and the President, that the finding of the board was "mandatory," or to that effect; hastily, inconsiderately, without notice to parties, without any

pretence of having been guided by rules of evidence known to every schoolboy in the land, and in a manner so utterly repugnant to the great principles of civil liberty, or the laws of courts-martial which guarantee that the accused shall have the RIGHT to confront his accusers and witnesses, and meet them face to face; that the law and its action is obnoxious to the great majority of those who have been *temporarily* benefitted by it; that without any of these *rights* being considered as attaching to the holder of an honorable commission, your memorialist has been assaulted in the dark, stricken down in secret, and has appealed in vain to know why and wherefore. See the annexed correspondence with the president of the board.

In that great charter of our liberties, to which the name of JOHN HANCOCK and JOSIAH BARTLETT are attached, who, with CHARLES CARROLL of CARROLTON, and their immortal *associates*, "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors to maintain," leaving it as an imperishable legacy of honor and renown to their descendants, it is charged that one of the *high crimes* which England had committed against her loyal colonies was the transportation of colonial citizens *beyond sea*, and putting them under trial, where they had no *counsel*, no *documents*, no *witnesses*, to sustain them in defence. This law and its execution has been less merciful, is less defensible, than those tyrannical acts—for the country furnished citizens with honorable commissions, and sent them abroad in its service to uphold the honor of the country, and cause her flag to be respected on dangerous seas and sickly coasts; and, as a reward for such service, well performed, and proudly stated to the world as the gallant conduct of American officers, "ROLANDO" and "MAFFIT" are "*furloughed;*" Maury is "retired;" "Stevens," "Walbach," "Sterrett," "Shaw," and scores of other meritorious and "efficient" officers, who are proving their efficiency at this moment, are retired, furloughed, or "dropped."

Therefore your memorialist appeals to the Congress of the nation to be heard in his defence, and his commission and original position in the navy—for which he has battled the enemies of his country, the storms of the ocean, and the pestilence of sickly coasts, (yet, through the mercy of God, possessed of a constitution and health which fits him for every duty, ashore or afloat)—shall be restored to him.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WASH'N ALLON BARTLETT.

APPENDIX.

Letter from Commander F. B. Ellison, U. S. Navy.

HEMPSTEAD, LONG ISLAND, *Jan'y 17th*, 1856.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your request that I would state my opinion of your efficiency as an officer, and your deportment as a gentleman, during our recent association on board the "Jamestown," where you served under my command, I with great pleasure say, that in every particular, as a zealous and capable officer, and a well-informed, intelligent gentleman, I regarded you as most exemplary. Commodore Crabbe frequently expressed himself to me in very warm terms of you as a highly accomplished officer, and like expressions were made from all your messmates in the ward-room, showing a uniformity of opinion throughout the ship.

Sincerely trusting that the error which seems to have been made in your case may speedily be rectified, and that you may be honorably restored to your former position in the Navy,

I am, very truly,
Your obed't servant and friend,
FRAS. B. ELLISON,
Commander U. S. Navy.

W. A. BARTLETT, Esq.,
Washington, D. C.

Testimonial of Commodore Crabbe, U. S. Navy.

U. S. SHIP JAMESTOWN,
PORTO GRANDE, *Oct. 23d*, 1855.

SIR: I have received your letter of this day's date, containing a copy of a letter from the honorable Secretary of the Navy to Mrs. Bartlett, [the same published in the body of the memorial,] in relation to your retirement from the Navy of the United States.

Although I have not received anything official from the Department upon the subject, yet the Hon. Secretary's letter to Mrs. Bartlett, and the reasons set forth by yourself, will no doubt justify me in relieving you from further duty on board this ship. In doing so, however, I cannot avoid saying that I deeply regret the loss of your services. Your

gentlemanly and officer-like bearing, whilst under my command, has uniformly met my warmest approbation.

I am, with great respect, your obd't serv't,

THOMAS CRABBE,
Commander-in-chief of U. S.
Naval Forces, Coast of Africa.

To Lieut. W. A. BARTLETT,
U. S. Ship "Jamestown."

Testimonial of Lieut. Comd'g Jas. F. Armstrong.

U. S. FLAG-SHIP "JAMESTOWN,"
PORTO GRANDE, ST. VINCENT, *Oct. 23d*, 1855.

DEAR SIR: In forwarding you the enclosed letter from Commodore Crabbe, relieving you from further duty in this ship, I beg leave to assure you of my deepest regret for the cause that has produced it, and for the interruption of an intercourse and association always confidential, harmonious, and friendly.

I shall ever esteem you in your character as an officer and gentleman, and in parting from you tender you my sincerest wishes for your restoration to the service, and for your future welfare.

Very respectfully, your obd't serv't,

JAS. FRANCIS ARMSTRONG,
Lieut. Commanding.

Lieut. WASH'N A. BARTLETT, *U. S. S. Jamestown.*

Testimonial of all the Commissioned Officers of the United States Flag-ship Jamestown.

PORTO GRANDE, ST. VINCENT,
October 24th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: We entertain too high an appreciation of your character as a gentleman and an officer, and too warm a regard for you as a messmate and friend, to allow you to leave us without saying to you, in the sincerity of our hearts, that we deeply regret that you are about to part from us, and, above all, the cause that takes you away.

In the difficult and responsible relation that you have sustained to us, as executive officer of the ship, you have ever, whilst discharging your duties with fidelity, borne yourself towards us with the utmost frankness, conciliation, and courtesy. And, in the more intimate and kindly relation, as a member of the little society that we form amongst ourselves, and which can subsist in harmony only by mutual cultivation of friendly feelings and the practice of friendly offices, you have endeared yourself to us by your uniform amiability of disposition, and by the desire that you have ever evinced to cherish the most cordial intercourse with us all.

We therefore beg to assure you, that in parting from us you are taking leave of those who will ever remember you with pleasure, and who, whatever fortunes may betide you, will always continue your well-wishers and friends.

Ever, very truly, yours,

GEO. CLYMER,
Fleet Surgeon, ranking with Commander.
T. H. PATTERSON, *Lieutenant.*
EDWARD N. BARNETT, *Lieutenant.*
T. M. TAYLOR, *Purser, (rank of Commander.)*
JULIAN MYERS, *Lieutenant.*
SAM'L RICH'D SWANN, *Ass't Surgeon.*
JOHN L. HEYLEN, *Commodore's Secretary.*
JNO. E. HART, *Acting Master and Lieut.*
JAS. M. BRADFORD, *Act'g Lieut.*
CHAS. W. THOMAS, *Chaplain.*

LT. WASHINGTON A. BARTLETT.

Letter from the Junior Officers of the Jamestown.

UNITED STATES SHIP JAMESTOWN,
PORTO GRANDE, ST. VINCENT, *Oct'r 24th*, 1855.

SIR: You are about to return to your home; in so doing the members of the steerage feel it their duty to express to you their deep regret, and their sincere gratitude for the extreme kindness with which you have universally treated them, during the time they have had the pleasure of being under your command. You may be assured that, after your leaving us, you will ever be cherished in our memory with feelings of the highest regard and esteem, in your character as an officer and gentleman.

Sir, we bid you, with sorrow, a hearty farewell; with many wishes for your future welfare and happiness,

Believe us, very respectfully, your obed't servants,

N. B. CONCKLIN, *M. Mate.*
C. W. LAWRENCE, *M. Mate.*
VAL HALL VOORHEES, *M. Mate.*
O. N. HENCKEL, *M. Mate.*
H. B. JOHNSON, *C. Clerk.*

LIEUT. W. A. BARTLETT, *U. S. Navy.*

Letter from the Warrant Officers of the U. S. Ship Jamestown.

PORTO GRANDE, ST. VINCENT,
October 26th, 1855.

SIR: It is with feelings of the most heartfelt sorrow that we address these few lines to you.

You are about to return to your home, and we, as officers, who

have taken pleasure in being under your command, cannot think of your leaving us without expressing our thanks for the gentlemanly manner in which we have been treated by you.

Your name will ever live fresh in our memories.

Hoping that you may succeed in all your undertakings, we remain,

Yours, truly,

WILLIAM COPE, *Gunner.*
JOHN MCKINLEY, *Boatswain.*
JOSEPH R. SMITH, *Carpenter.*

LIEUT. W. A. BARTLETT, *U. S. Navy.*

Testimonial from the Petty Officers and Crew of the "Jamestown."

U. S. SHIP JAMESTOWN,
OFF PORTO GRANDE, *29th Oct.*, 1855.

SIR: In the discharge of my duties as sailmaker of this ship, I have learned much of the disposition of the crew, and the feeling they have toward you, particularly during the time you have served as executive officer; and beg leave to state, that they, being aware of your intended departure for the States, have expressed a wish to me, and through me, to testify their regret that you have occasion to leave them prior to the end of the cruise.

Since I have been attached to the Navy I have seen other officers who have gained the esteem of their ship's company, but never to such a degree as you have from the hardy sons of Neptune comprising this ship's crew. Your capabilities as a lieutenant, and your bearing as an officer and gentleman, have won their admiration, and they say they cannot let you depart without this token of their gratitude and their esteem.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,
WM. N. MAUL, *Sailmaker.*

Approved—

WM. PLUMMER, *Captain Forecastle.*
JAMES YOUNG, *Captain Fore-top.*
HENRY P. GRACE, *Captain Main-top.*
CHARLES STEWART, *Captain Mizen-top.*
THOMAS W. MCCREADY, *Captain After-guard.*
THOMAS KITCHEN, *Captain Hold.*
DAVID ESBECK, *Signal Quartermaster.*
GEORGE POTTER, *Boatswain's Mate.*
WILLIAM THOMAS, *Sailmaker's Mate.*
JOHN H. LOVELESS, *Carpenter's Mate.*
DANIEL HUSSEY, *Gunner's Mate.*
JOHN D. GORMAN, *Master-at-arms.*
CHARLES SWANSON, *Yeoman.*
JAMES MCFARLAND, *Cooper.*

P. S.—They all wish to sign and approve, but as it would occupy too much time, and too large a space, I could only permit one from each part of the ship, who bears testimony as to the sentiments of the gangs to which they are attached.

W. N. MAUL.

U. S. Surveying Schooner "Ewing,"
San Francisco, *Oct. 12th*, 1850.

Sir: You will proceed to Washington by the first opportunity, carrying with you the results of our labors for the past season.

Immediately on your arrival at Washington you will report to the Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey, and lay before him our work and reports.

You will also inform the Superintendent, in detail, the peculiar situation of the country, and the wants of the survey on this coast.

It only remains for me to thank you for the zealous assistance you have afforded me since your attachment to this vessel, and to wish a happy reunion with your family and friends.

I am, respectfully and truly, yours,

WM. P. McARTHUR,
Lieut. Comd'g and Assistant U. S. Coast Survey.

W. A. Bartlett, *Lieutenant.*

Reported Willis Station, Nov. 26th, 1850.

A. D. BACHE.

Letter from the Hon. John Y. Mason, ex-Secretary of the Navy, to Hon. James Guthrie, Secretary of the Treasury.

Paris, *September* 2, 1854.

Dear Sir: Lieutenant Bartlett, of the United States Navy, is about leaving Paris, on his return to the United States. It gives me great pleasure to bear my testimony to the care and vigilance with which this gentleman has performed his responsible duties since I have been here, and to express my admiration of the splendid lights which have been manufactured under his supervision for the coasts of the United States.

I do not believe that there are in the world superior mechanical structures for the safety of commerce than those which have been prepared here under the superintendence of Mr. Bartlett. The chief credit is unquestionably due to the faithful and skilful manufacturers, but no small share is, in my judgment, due to Mr. Bartlett, who has displayed zeal, industry and intelligence in the performance of his duties. I hope that you will not consider me obtrusive in thus ex-

pressing my admiration of the Lens lights prepared here for the exposed and dangerous coasts of my country.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully,

J. Y. MASON.

Hon. James Guthrie,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington.

H Street, Washington, D. C.,
January 16, 1856.

Sir: I acknowledge the receipt of your letter.

The board of which I was the senior officer, and of the action of which you complain, having some time since completed the duty assigned it, has been, as I suppose you know, dissolved by the authority by which it was appointed; and I am of the opinion that no individual of its late members is competent to speak for it in relation to the matters which came before it, or of the grounds on which any of its decisions were made.

No inference, either favorable or unfavorable, should be drawn from my conduct towards any person whose name may have been embraced in the report of the board, as to my individual opinion in relation to him, or as to my vote in his case; it has always been my endeavor to keep my social relations free from influence by anything of an unpleasant nature that may occur in the discharge of my official duties.

With due respect, I am, &c., &c.,

W. B. SHUBRICK.

Washington A. Bartlett, Esq.

Testimonial of Commodore E. A. F. Lavallette on the services of Lt. Bartlett in the Pacific Squadron.

Philadelphia, *January* 23*d*, 1856.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 22d instant, in which you state, that "while absent from the country, serving as 1st lieutenant of the flag-ship of the African squadron, it has pleased the late 'Navy Board' to present my name to the President to be stricken from the rolls as lieutenant in the Navy.

"I have had the honor to serve under your command as a midshipman, and again as a lieutenant, commanding the armed prize brig Argo in the Gulf of California, and in the attack on Guaymas, and its occupation. On that occasion you did me the honor to assign me to the most advanced post, on the night previous to the attack, out of supporting distance of the guns of the squadron, and out of sight, being covered by the island which separated me from the squadron.

"How did I bear myself on that occasion? Did I meet your expectations or not?

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"From your knowledge of me, my abilities and acquirements, was or was I not an efficient officer of the Pacific squadron during the Mexican war?"

In answer, I have to state, that your foregoing statements of our operations in the Gulf of Mexico are correct in every particular. Your conduct on that occasion not only met my approbation, but the activity, energy, and skill which you displayed in getting your gun landed, merited—and the effect which it produced, by your management, upon the works of the enemy entitled you to—the highest praise.

Your abilities and acquirements I considered quite equal to any of your grade, and very superior to very many of them. I certainly viewed you as an efficient officer of the Pacific squadron.

I am, respectfully,

Your obe'dt serv't,

E. A. F. LAVALLETTE.

WASH'N A. BARTLETT, Esq.,

Late Lieut. U. S. Navy, Washington City, D. C.

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